

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. DelGobbo, Labriola Call Governor's Budget Proposal An Honest Start



Legislators Note Disagreement on Proposed Tax Increases

NAUGATUCK—State Representatives Kevin M. DelGobbo (R-70th, Naugatuck) and David K. Labriola (R-131st, Naugatuck, Oxford) today called Governor M. Jodi Rell's proposed two-year state budget an honest start in closing a \$1 billion deficit.

They noted the governor's budget increases state aid to public schools, puts money into the state Rainy Day Fund for emergencies and controls costs in many programs.

Rep. DelGobbo said, "While I certainly disagree with the idea of raising taxes any further, I do appreciate that the governor's budget proposal is an honest starting point for the legislature to deliberate."

"In recent years," Rep. DelGobbo added, "it has been exceedingly easy for me to vote against budgets that were adopted, because they were not honestly balanced. Instead, they used accounting gimmicks and one-time revenues that merely left bigger gaps the following years. This proposal appears not to do that."

Rep. DelGobbo said, "I can understand that the governor was handed a budget framework that was at least \$1 billion in the hole. She has to try and govern with a Democratic-controlled legislature that is entirely inclined to spend more rather than to spend wisely."

Rep. Labriola said, "Although I oppose the proposed tax increases, I applaud the governor for making tough choices and creating an excellent budget to begin our debate."

Rep. Labriola added, "Her budget is balanced, and stays within the spending cap. I am impressed by the pro-job-growth features of her proposal and elimination of duplication of services.

The two legislators said the proposed budget also approaches the spending cap honestly. They said, "While the Democrats are prepared to ignore Connecticut voters and disregard the provisions of the constitutional spending cap, the governor's budget approaches the

spending cap honestly. It does include a nursing home tax to generate more federal revenues, but her proposal would abide by the spending cap which requires a special declaration and a three-fifths vote of the legislature to increase the nursing home expenditures.”

Rep. DelGobbo added, “While I have my disagreements on taxes, I am obviously willing to try and be part of crafting a responsible budget.”

Rep. DelGobbo serves the 70th Assembly District of Naugatuck and Rep. Labriola serves the 131st district of Naugatuck and Oxford.